

bosis and emphasised that its incidence was considerable. This condition was characterised by puerperal headache, fits, and transient coma, followed by focal neurological signs. Treatment was by sedatives and heparin—if the superior longitudinal sinus were involved, daily lumbar puncture was of value.

REVIEW

THE CHILD IN HEALTH AND DISEASE. By C. R. Grulee and R. C. Eley.
Pp. 1,006. Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 66s.

THIS volume follows the now usual practice of making use of a number of expert contributors on the different branches of the subject, the whole edited and co-ordinated to present a balanced view of the subject as a whole. In this case there are over fifty contributors, and the editors state in their introduction that the aim of the book is to emphasize the practical application of the study of pædiatrics at the bedside, rather than the purely scientific advances in the subject.

With nineteen sections and ninety-one chapters there is inevitably some unevenness, and a tendency to overlap and repetition, but the editors' aims have, in general, been well realised. It is doubtful, however, whether this book is suitable for students, as they suggest; certainly few students in British medical schools would have the time or inclination to read the 1,006 pages which it contains.

The range and size of the work prevents any detailed discussion of the individual sections. In the introductory section on "general considerations" one finds a short chapter on pædiatric pathology, which is valuable to the general pædiatrician, though, presumably, too elementary to be of value to pathologists. There is a useful chapter on E.N.T. procedures, and a short section on surgical pædiatrics, including good advice on preparing the child for an operation. (Unfortunately by the time the child comes to the pre-operative stage it is usually too late to advise the parents.)

As in most American pædiatric text-books, a rather larger age group is covered than in British practice, and a section on adolescence includes a chapter on gynæcological disorders in adolescents, with the comment that these patients are most often courteously referred from the pædiatrician to the gynæcologist, and, equally courteously, from the gynæcologist to the pædiatrician.

There are a few statements which are rather unorthodox in various parts of the book; in the chapter on cerebral palsy it is assumed that the increased incidence of this condition in premature infants cannot be due to birth trauma, because of their small size and easy delivery. In discussing the ætiology of cirrhosis in childhood, the rather surprising figure of sixteen per cent. due to chronic alcoholism is quoted. Intracranial hæmorrhage is blamed for one-third of neonatal deaths, a much higher figure than usually found in this country. It is interesting to note that B.C.G. vaccination is considered to be of doubtful value, but great reliance is placed on mass miniature radiography for the control of tuberculosis. In the section on aspiration pneumonia, which lays valuable stress on the need to avoid oily nasal preparations and the danger of forcing cod-liver oil into a struggling infant, it is stated that vegetable oils are more irritating than mineral oils, which is contrary to general teaching and practice (e.g. the use of iodised poppyseed oil for bronchography).

The chapter on intestinal parasites is spoiled by the lack of correlation between illustrations and text, the references in the text having no connection with the numbered figures quoted; also the illustration of ova has no key to identify them.

Despite these minor failings, the book is, in general, at a high standard of sound practical teaching, and will be helpful to postgraduate students of child health and to practising pædiatricians. Unfortunately, devaluation has made it a rather expensive addition to the practitioner's library.

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